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The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Government have no reason to believe that the High Court has not taken the necessary steps."

Forests

Memorial from the villagers of Vangal in the Trichinopoly district about their forest grievances.

* 98 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received any memorial from the villagers of Vangal in the Trichinopoly district about their forest grievances ; and

(*b*) what action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

A.—(*a*) No such memorial has been received.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Removal of the reserve boundary line away from the holdings of the ryots in South Kanara.

* 99 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have at any time considered the question of removing the reserve boundary line half a mile or any distance away from the holdings of ryots in South Kanara ?

A.—Yes. The question was also considered in connexion with the budget debates of 1928–29. The policy of Government on the general question is contained in G.O. No. 30, Development, dated the 6th January 1922, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. In pursuance of that policy all legitimate grievances which were brought to notice have also received attention.

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—"May I know whether there has been any instance in the district in which the reserve boundary has been put back ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the table once again the Government Order which was placed on the table in the year 1922 ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I think it is unnecessary to do so."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—"May I know whether the question of putting back the reserve boundaries was also one of the subjects included in the question of reorganization of the Forest Department ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"That was not ; but the whole forest policy will be considered. This also along with the rest will be considered."

Jails

Age-limit for the detention of adolescents in Borstal schools.

* 100 Q.—Mr. F. E. JAMES : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in spite of the fact that 23 is regarded as the maximum age for the detention of adolescents in Borstal schools, certain courts continue to give sentences which necessitate detention in Borstal institutions beyond this age-limit ; and

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(b) if so, what action it is proposed to take to remedy this defect, either by instructions to magistrates or by amendment of the Borstal Schools Act of 1926?

A.—(a) & (b) Under the Madras Borstal Schools Act courts can sentence an adolescent offender (who is not more than 21 years of age at the time of conviction) to a maximum term of five years' detention in a Borstal school. The suggestion to fix 23 as the maximum age for detention in a Borstal school involves legislation and the desirability of amending the Act will be considered.

Temporary detention of adolescent offenders in jails.

* 101 *Q.*—Mr. F. E. James: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that adolescent offenders under the Borstal School Act are not committed direct to Borstal schools, but are detained temporarily in jails prior to committal; and

(b) what steps he will take to rectify the procedure?

A.—(a) & (b) With reference to section 12 of the Madras Borstal Schools Act, every adolescent offender sentenced to detention in a Borstal school by a court is sent to a Borstal school. But some time must elapse between the delivery of judgment and the arrangement of the police escort. Enquiry has also to be made by courts whether accommodation is immediately available or not in the school. During this period the adolescent offender has necessarily to be kept in custody. In order to minimize this period of custody as far as possible, magistrates have been informed that accommodation will always be available in the Borstal schools and that there is no need to make any previous reference on this point to the Superintendent of the school.

Mr. F. E. James:—" May I ask the hon. Member to be pleased to state who is responsible for sending the adolescent offenders to Borstal custody?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Will my hon. Friend speak a little louder."

Mr. F. E. James:—" May I know who is responsible for arranging to send the adolescent offenders to Borstal?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I think it is the Inspector in charge, but I am not certain."

Mr. F. E. James:—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to take some action which will minimise the length of time during which these youthful offenders are in police custody even after they have been committed to the Borstal School by Magistrates?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I shall take the necessary steps."